

SYSTEMATIC NOTES CONCERNING AMERICAN
ACRAEINAE

(Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

BY ROBERT W. L. POTTS

University of California, Berkeley

All members of the subfamily *Acraeinae* have heretofore been placed in a single genus, *Actinote*. Within this genus there is a marked natural division into two well-defined groups. Dr. K. Jordan (in Seitz, Gross-Schmett.) and others have noted this, but without according the groups a status above the section. It now appears that they merit generic standing.

ACTINOTE Hübner, s. str.

Forewing underneath between costal and subcostal veins not entirely scaled, but bearing bristles, at least in distal portion. Usually without a central row of bristles on disco-cellular fold of hindwing. Lowland tropics.

Type species: *Papilio (Heliconius) thalia* Linnaeus.

Altinote Potts, new genus

Forewing underneath scaled between costal and subcostal veins in distal portion, not normally bearing bristles; hindwing beneath always with a central row of bristles on disco-cellular fold. Mountainous tropics.

Type species: *Heliconius neleus* Latreille.

In general *Altinote* may be distinguished from *Actinote* by color pattern and distribution. *Actinote* contains only species with patterns on both wings, being normally more or less transparent and thinly scaled, yellowish or whitish in tone with dull or rarely dark markings. *Altinote* normally show patterns on the forewing or underside only, these being bright red, orange, yellow or white against a consistently dark ground often showing iridescence, only a few species exhibiting any hindwing pattern and only one becoming dull; all being rather densely scaled. The *Altinote* are typically confined to the Andes and its outriders, while the *Actinote* center in the Amazon basin and are commonest near tidewater, although there is a considerable overlapping.

Within the genus *Altinote* two sections, herewith raised to the status of subgenera, may be recognized:

Subgenus Abananote Potts, n. subg.

Hindwing underneath with long scattered bristles between the veins in the discal cell, above and below it, and usually also on disc.

Type species: *Acraea abana* Hewitson.

Subgenus ALTINOTE, s. str.

Hindwing underneath without scattered bristles in the discal cell, above it, or on disc; rarely with a few scattered bristles below cell not on reduced postcubital vein.

Type species: *Heliconius neleus* Latreille.

The subgenus *Abananote* contains the species *radiata*, *erinome*, *abana*, *hylonome* and *euryleuca*. In general the pattern of these is confined to the disco-apical portion of the forewing, occasionally extended inwardly toward the base. The subgenus *Altinote*, containing the numerous remaining species, has the pattern characteristically basal, often with an apical band in addition. Underneath, the striping of *Abanote* is normally strong and even, whereas in *Altinote* it is irregular, parti-colored, and in bands or areas.

Altinote (*Altinote*) *brownorum* Potts, new species

Male black and red-orange, belonging to *eresia*-group. Forewing with red-orange transverse band of elongate spots, nearly straight; dark discal band much widened inwardly becoming triangular, reaching almost to base posteriorly, leaving only basal half of discal cell and subcostal cell colored, with colored basal spot in costal cell and some color below discal cell. Hindwing with curved color band mostly outside discal cell, halfmoon shaped across disc, extending basally at inner and costal margins, distally notched at veins and intervenal stripes; red-orange at end of discal cell fading to orange, yellow and finally whitish at both margins. Underneath similar to *eresia*, except that forewing repeats dark discal band reduced, a wide transverse colored band being formed, narrowly margined white distally; ground darker, thus stripings and lunules, as well as white discal band of hindwing much more prominent. Forewing, 24.0 mm.

Female very similar; ground color somewhat duller, red-orange not so bright. Underneath a tendency to white in costo-basal portion of dark area within white discal band. Forewing, 28.0 mm.

Holotype ♂ and allotype ♀ taken in copula, YUNGUILLA, 1700 M, ECUADOR, with 2 ♂ paratypes, one from Yunguilla, one from Rio Blanco, 1700 M, Ecuador, collected in May by F. Martin and Hazel Brown for whom the author wishes to express his sincere admiration with this dedication. In addition one ♀ paratype from Baños, 1800 M, Ecuador, also collected in May by Clarke McIntyre. All in the author's collection.

Variation in the paratypes illustrates a tendency for the distinctive dark discal band of the forewing to become larger, while the color pattern of the hindwing tends toward reduction, and may become partially obscured.